



**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
SERVICES MEETING  
15 January 2008**

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

Report of the Corporate Director for Children and Young People

## **SUSTAINABILITY OF CHILDCARE**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. To agree and approve a funding grant application for sustainability funding.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The council is the accountable body for the Childcare and Family Learning Service.
- 2.2 The service as part of the funding it receives under the Local Area Agreement to deliver on agreed targets has allocated an element of this to be awarded as grants to childcare providers. They can apply for the funding to assist with the sustainability of childcare places across the city.
- 2.3 The service has the responsibility for allocating funding as agreed in cabinet report Sure Start Start Early Years Development and Childcare Strategic Development Plan 2004-2006, 18 May 2004 and Local Area Agreement targets 2006.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Affordable, accessible childcare is a cornerstone of the government's target to reduce child poverty.
- 3.2 The sustainability grant supports the local authority's new legal duty under the Childcare Act 2006 to provide sufficient affordable childcare for all families who wish to access it and particularly for children with additional needs and disabled children.
- 3.3 All the awards allocated are promoted openly and fairly citywide and fit within the approved criteria for the allocation of funding.
- 3.4 A panel of representatives of early years and childcare professionals nominated through the former Early Years and Childcare Partnership are on the appraisal panel. This group make the decision to approve or decline the funding applications received.
- 3.5 The total sustainability funding of £133,109 is included in the local area agreement. Only £85,000 of this though is to be spent on sustainability grants to childcare providers or on activities to aid sustainability of childcare places within the city.
- 3.6 All grants paid in this report will relate to activities and expenditure for 2007/2008.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. The service could have decided not to allocate some of its funding as sustainability grants to childcare providers. However this could result in a loss of childcare places in the city when the authority now has a legal duty to ensure there is sufficient, quality affordable childcare opportunities citywide.

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**Background papers:**

**List of appendices:** Appendix 1 - Implications  
Appendix 2– List of allocations

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial**

- 1.1 The Sure Start unit indicated that money for sustainability grant funding should be allocated out of the General Sure Start Grant. Derby City Council through the Local Area Agreement has allocated our service for 2007/2008 a total of £133,109 for activities to sustain childcare places in the City of which £85,000 is available for single awards. This report will allocate £19,759.
- 1.2 In line with the Council's usual procedures, invoices will need to be produced for any capital works before draw down of funding will be allowed. We will ensure three tenders for works over £1,000 are obtained from the providers to ensure best value procedures are followed.
- 1.3 Sustainability grants are awarded to organisations that are identified as in need of some short-term support to allow continuation of their service. The Childcare and Family Learning Service continues to work with the childcare providers after the funding has been paid over to ensure grants are spent within the agreed time scales. Additional business support is offered to allow them to continue to deliver sustainable childcare services.
- 1.4 The amount of sustainability grant allocated to each individual childcare provider is dependant on the needs identified in the organisations business plan and cash flow forecasts submitted as part of the funding application.
- 1.5 A summary appraisal sheet detailing how the above activities would specifically benefit the provider is provided to an appraisal panel before each element of the funding is approved.

**Legal**

2. Service level agreements already approved by legal services will be put in place before draw down of any funding is allowed.

**Personnel**

3. Posts within the maintained private, voluntary and independent sector will be secured.

**Equalities impact**

- 4.1 Access to sustainability funding is open to all childcare providers in the city.
- 4.2 Allocation of a proportion of this funding will support disabled children to access mainstream services.

## Corporate priorities for change

- 5.1 The proposal furthers the Council's current priorities for 2007-2008 of **supporting everyone in learning and achieving** and **helping us all to be healthy, active and independent**.

## Appendix 2

### Sustainability Funding

#### 2007/2008

Provider	Type of Provision	No. of places	Ward	On School Site	Amount of Funding
Y-Play	Holiday play schemes and childcare for disabled children	45	Mickleover	Yes (Silverhill Primary)	£19,759 Sustainability grant
	After School Club	30	Arboretum	Yes (St Chadd's School)	